IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A system for providing ticket information to a plurality of client computers via a network connection, comprising:

(a) a database containing the ticket information for at least restricted tickets different from unrestricted tickets, wherein both the restricted tickets and the unrestricted tickets provide access to an event and wherein the restricted tickets carry a restriction not imposed on the unrestricted tickets, and wherein the ticket information comprises at least ticket availability information and ticket price information and wherein ticket availability information comprises a number of the restricted tickets available for purchase; and

(b) an event server configured to execute instructions for:

(i) accessing the ticket information in the database;

(ii) dynamically adjusting the number of the restricted tickets to make available for purchase in response to purchase orders received for both restricted tickets and unrestricted tickets, wherein the number of the restricted tickets available for purchase is adjusted without adjusting a price of the restricted tickets; and

(iii) sending responses to the plurality of client computers for the purchase orders for the restricted tickets received from the plurality of client computers.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is further configured to execute instructions for responding to purchase orders for the unrestricted tickets.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is configured to execute instructions for responding to the purchase orders by sending at least part of the ticket information to the plurality of client computers.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is configured to execute instructions for dynamically determine determining the number of the restricted tickets available for purchase by, after receiving at least one purchase order, comparing an estimated number of remaining restricted tickets to a predetermined range of restricted tickets and changing the number of restricted tickets available for purchase when the estimated number of the remaining restricted tickets is outside of the predetermined range.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is configured to execute instructions for dynamically determine determining the number of the restricted tickets available for purchase by periodically changing the number in response to the number of purchase orders received.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the number of remaining restricted tickets is the difference between a remaining portion of an initial number of the restricted tickets and an estimated number of the restricted tickets to be sold in a remaining time period before an event date.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the network connection is the Internet.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of client computers comprises a plurality of dedicated stand-alone computers configured specifically for ticket purchases.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the restricted tickets are non-refundable and the unrestricted tickets are refundable.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the event server is configured to execute instructions for dynamically determine determining the number of

the restricted tickets available for purchase by periodically changing the number in response to the number of purchase orders received and a time period remaining before an event occurs, wherein the event is made accessible to holders of the restricted and unrestricted tickets.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the event is made conditionally accessible to holders of the restricted tickets and unconditionally to holders of the unrestricted tickets.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable storage medium containing a program which, when executed by a processor, performs a method to determine availability of a restricted class of tickets for advance purchase to gain access to an event, the restricted class of tickets being different from an unrestricted class of tickets for the event, wherein holders of either class of tickets are permitted access to the event, the method comprising:

processing advance purchase orders for the restricted class of tickets received from a plurality of client computers;

assessing, after processing at least one of the purchase orders, whether a remaining number of the restricted class of tickets available for purchase meets a predetermined condition; and

when the predetermined condition is not met, changing the remaining number of the restricted class of tickets available for advance purchase to an adjusted number without changing a price of the restricted class of tickets.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, further comprising, prior to processing the purchase orders, determining an initial number of the restricted class of tickets to make available for advance purchase.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the adjusted number is greater than the assessed number of the restricted class of tickets available for purchase when the assessed number is less than the threshold value.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, further comprising processing purchase orders for unrestricted tickets.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the step of assessing is done iteratively to ensure the remaining number of the restricted class of tickets available for purchase is adjusted on the basis of actual ticket sales and wherein assessing comprises:
calculating the remaining number on the basis of (i) a previous prediction of a total number of sales of the restricted class of tickets and (ii) a current prediction of a total number of sales of the restricted class of tickets, the current prediction being based on a number of the restricted class of tickets actually sold and a number of the purchase orders received and a time period remaining before an the event occurs; and
determining whether the predetermined condition is satisfied.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~signal bearing~~ medium of claim 12, wherein the restricted tickets are non-refundable and the unrestricted tickets are refundable.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the predetermined condition is a threshold value and wherein the adjusted number is less than the assessed number of the restricted class of tickets available for purchase when the assessed number is less than the threshold value.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 18, wherein the predetermined condition varies with time.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein determining the initial number comprises:

estimating a number of purchases of the restricted class of tickets;

determining whether the estimated number of purchases is less than a threshold; and

setting the initial number of the restricted class of tickets to make available equal to the estimated number when the estimated number of purchases is greater than or equal to the threshold.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~signal bearing~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 20 wherein estimating the number of purchases of the restricted class of tickets is done according to a formula:

N = (Total_Tickets) – (P_C); where N is the estimated number of purchases of the restricted class of tickets, Total_Tickets is a total number of tickets possible according to a capacity of the event, P_C is a number of purchases of the unrestricted class of tickets expected to made at the time of the event according an estimated total number of potential purchasers.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a server computer connected to a plurality of client computers via a network, wherein the server computer is configured to determine advance purchase availability of at least a restricted class of tickets for an event accessible to holders of either of the restricted class of tickets and an unrestricted class of tickets, wherein the restricted class of tickets have at least one limitation not associated with the unrestricted class of tickets, the method comprising:

determining an initial number of the restricted class of tickets to make available for advance purchase prior to the event taking place;

receiving advance purchase orders for the restricted class of tickets from the plurality of client computers;

assessing, after processing at least one purchase order, whether a number of remaining tickets of the restricted class of tickets meets predetermined conditions; and

changing the initial number of the restricted class of tickets to an adjusted number without changing a price of the restricted class of tickets when the predetermined condition is not met.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the number of remaining tickets of the restricted class of tickets is estimated according to at least a number of tickets sold and a number of tickets expected to be sold in a remaining time period before the event.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the predetermined condition changes with time.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the restricted class of tickets are non-refundable and the unrestricted class of tickets are refundable.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the at least one limitation is one of a limitation on use, transference and refund.

27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein receiving purchase orders from the plurality of client computers comprises receiving requests from a plurality of dedicated stand-alone computers configured specifically for ticket purchases.

28. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein receiving purchase orders from the plurality of client computers comprises receiving requests from a plurality of personal computers connected to the server computer by a network connection.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein changing the number of the remaining tickets to make available comprises decreasing the number of remaining tickets.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein changing the number of the remaining tickets to make available comprises one of decreasing the number of remaining tickets and increasing the number of remaining tickets.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

stimulating sales of the restricted class of tickets when changing the number of the remaining tickets to make available comprises decreasing the number of remaining tickets.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising, leaving the number of remaining tickets unchanged when the number of remaining tickets meets the predetermined condition.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein determining the initial number comprises:

estimating a number of purchases of the restricted class of tickets;

determining whether the estimated number of purchases is less than a threshold; and

setting the initial number of the restricted class of tickets to make available equal to the estimated number, when the estimated number of purchases is greater than or equal to the threshold.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising, requesting an increase in a number of instances of the event from an event sponsor when the estimated number of purchases is less than the threshold.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein estimating the number of purchases of the restricted class of tickets is done according to a formula:

N = (Total_Tickets) – (P_C); where N is the estimated number of purchases of the restricted class of tickets, Total_Tickets is a total number of tickets possible according to a capacity of the event, P_C is a number of ticket purchases of the unrestricted class of tickets expected to made at the time of the event according an estimated total number potential purchasers.

36. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of assessing comprises periodically determining whether the number of remaining tickets is within a predetermined range.

37. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of determining the initial number is done only once for the event and the steps of assessing and changing are done periodically.